



STATE ADVISORY GROUP (SAG) MEETING
Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032
Monday, January 6, 2019
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m

Meeting Minutes

Participating Members:

Heather Chapman, Chair
Eric Ford, Vice Chair
Kara Aanenson
Kirsten Andersen
Diana Barney
Jeffrey Breslin
Dr. Marone Brown
Sgt. Kathy Estrada
Annie Hansen-Combs (phone)
Lynette Holmes (phone)
Meredith Miller
Elizabeth "Liz" Park
Justin Ready (phone)
Janelle Riddick (phone)
Heidi Rochon
Kimberly Sauer (phone)
Melanie Shapiro
Dr. Jonathan Shepherd
Dr. Shameka Stanford
Jennifer Winter

Guests:

Betsy Tolentino, Assistant Secretary of Strategic Initiatives, Maryland Department of Juvenile Services

Staff:

Justice Schisler, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention
Mary Abraham, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention
Sabraya Knight, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention
William Jernigan, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention

Christina Drushel-Williams, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention
Christopher Miele, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 p.m. Members and guests introduced themselves.

II. Approval of the Consent Agenda

Ms. Chapman reviewed the consent agenda and listed the items therein: November 2019 meeting minutes and reports from the Racial And Ethnic Disparities and Grant Monitoring subcommittees. Mr. Breslin made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Ford seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the consent agenda was approved.

III. FY 2021 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) Discussion

Ms. Abraham reviewed the NOFA structure and outline. Technical assistance will be provided to applicants. A printout of current subrecipients was shared with the group. Focus areas remain consistent and include aftercare and reentry, juvenile justice system improvement, delinquency prevention and community-based programming. Ms. Knight informed members that the NOFA is still in draft form and subject to change.

Ms. Schisler informed members of the current process for releasing the NOFA. Ms. Schisler referenced previous SAG discussions that considered shifting grants to multi-year funding and the desire to issue larger grants that could make a greater impact. As the SAG is currently in the third year of the 3-Year Plan, it is recommended to continue with the current funding strategy for awarding, and discussions on possible changes would commence with Federal Fiscal Year 2020 JJAC funding which would begin on July 1, 2021.

The award range was discussed in detail. Ms. Andersen made a motion for the JJAC SFY 21 award range to be set at \$25,000 to \$125,000 with the understanding that current sub-recipients with awards that will be reduced below \$25,000 due to the SAG's policy of reducing continuation grants by 25%, will be allowed this year. Mr. Breslin seconded the amendment and all members in attendance were in favor.

IV. Youth Diversion Strategies

Ms. Tolentino provided an overview of the Department of Juvenile Services' (DJS) statewide strategies to divert youth from detention and the juvenile justice system. Both pre- and post-arrest strategies are difficult to consistently replicate across the state at the police diversion level. Ms. Tolentino noted that in jurisdictions where State's Attorney's offices lead these initiatives, police diversion strategies tend to be more uniform and well supported by local law enforcement agencies.

Ms. Tolentino provided an overview of the intake process once complaints are received by DJS, including a description of the objective intake risk assessment tool that is utilized for all new complaints received by DJS. She also noted that once complaints are ‘received’ by DJS, conventional handling is required by statute. While diversion via informal supervision remains a DJS option for received cases, DJS cannot divert cases outside of the agency. Pre- and post-arrest diversion models that favor restorative justice and community based programming approaches must be achieved via collaboration among community partners before referrals are sent to DJS.

Statewide intake decision data and recidivism data for youth who complete informal supervision successfully and unsuccessfully were reviewed. For further detail please see the attached or visit this link:

https://djs.maryland.gov/Documents/publications/2019_p220-DJS-Juvenile-Services-ATD-Report.pdf

Ms. Drushel Williams asked about elevated new offense rates for youth placed in detention alternatives cited in the above linked report. Ms. Tolentino explained that the Department is examining these rates, and explained that during FY 2018 an increased number of ‘high needs youth’ entered the evening reporting center service population.

Upon further review of the report, Ms. Shapiro noted that while every county has a community detention and electronic monitoring program, very few counties have an actual community-based detention alternative program, such as PACT (Pre-Adjudication Coordination and Training) evening reporting center in Baltimore City.

Ms. Tolentino advised that the DJS 2019 Data Resource Guide has been published and is available for download here: <https://djs.maryland.gov/Pages/Data-Resource-Guides.aspx>.

V. Post-Intake and Pre-Adjudication Family Education

Ms. Aanenson, Director of Family Engagement at the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS), provided an update on the work that DJS is advancing to enhance family support. The group discussed possible formats to create and offer post-intake / pre-adjudicatory family focused training to youth and families entering the juvenile justice system. Training will be the product of stakeholder collaboration and can be piloted in several jurisdictions.

Mr. Ford made contact with University of Maryland researcher Dr. Erika Fountain who has provided resources for consideration. Their discussion covered topics such as navigating advocacy options when the interests of youth and parents do not align. Other topics included transportation concerns and also emphasized the importance of family support partners. Ms. Aanenson referenced the ongoing pilot between DJS and the Maryland Coalition of Families to provide family support in five jurisdictions.

Ms. Shapiro noted the value of this work and commented that although the Office of Public Defender (OPD) is able to provide counsel at any phase of the juvenile justice system, often

families are simply unaware that OPD is available to help. Ms. Chapman has made contact with the Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) to inquire of models in use in other states, and was provided with samples. Ms. Aanenson will coordinate a working group to discuss required partnerships and to review models in use in other States.

VI. Roundtable

Ms. Chapman provided members with an update on the Juvenile Justice Reform Council (JJRC) and referenced upcoming listening sessions. Meeting recordings and materials can be accessed here: <http://dls.maryland.gov/policy-areas/juvenile-justice-reform-council>.

Ms. Aanenson provided the schedule for JJRC listening sessions, which are held from 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m and 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at each location. Please see the attached meeting flyers for additional detail.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Ms. Chapman at 2:45 p.m.

Next Meeting:
March 9, 2020
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention
100 Community Place, 1st Floor, Conference Room B
Crownsville, MD 21032